

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 10, 13 and 16. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for previously confirming his consideration of the materials submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 21, 2002. Applicant also notes that the listing of claims in the application corresponds to the listing set forth in the Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 that was filed on August 20, 2003.

However, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-9, 11, 12, 14 and 15. In rejecting these claims, the Examiner asserts that OHSawa teaches the extraction of DCT coefficients based on a ratio Z which can be larger than 1 (referring Applicant to paper number 6). Applicant submits that this assertion is incorrect. Specifically, Applicant submits (contrary to the Examiner's assertion) that OHSawa does not disclose (or even suggest) applying an inverse orthogonal transformation to obtain expanded image data, as required by each of independent claims 1, 2, 11 and 14.

According to a feature of the present invention, described at, for example, page 14, line 19 - page 15, line 11, and illustrated in Fig. 3 of Applicant's specification, 8x8 orthogonal transformation coefficients in matrix MD are subjected to an inverse orthogonal transformation to expand image data arranged in matrix M3 comprised of 64x64 pixel values, the number of pixels in matrix M3 being greater than the number of pixels in matrix MD.

On the other hand, OHSawa discloses that enlargement of the image is performed using an interpolation process, and not an Applicant's IDCT process, as specified in Applicant's claims. Figs. 7 and 8 and column 10, lines 27-63 of OHSawa indicates that an inverse DCT process is used to reproduce image data, in which the image data is reduced to $1/8 \times 1/8$, $2/8 \times 2/8$, ... $8/8 \times 8/8$ in accordance with a ratio Z set by a ratio designator 15. However, as disclosed at column 16, lines 50-55 and step S275 in Fig. 19 of OHSawa (which is related to Fig. 18), an interpolation process is specifically indicated to be used as the enlargement method to change the reduced size to a size designated by ratio Z at step S270. Thus, Applicant submits that it is clear from reading OHSawa that an interpolation method, and not an inverse DCT process (as alleged by the Examiner) is performed by OHSawa to enlarge (expand) the image data.

In this regard, Applicant notes that the Examiner asserts in the January 14, 2004 Office Action that Fig. 22 of OHSawa discloses that the ratio Z can be larger than 1, resulting in the extraction of more than all of the original coefficients. Applicant submits that Fig. 22 of OHSawa is directed to a seventh embodiment, which "is almost the same as the one in Fig. 18 described in the fifth embodiment" (see column 19, lines 20-22 of OHSawa). Thus, Applicant submits that the portion of OHSawa relied upon by the Examiner to reject Applicant's claims teaches that interpolation is performed by OHSawa in order to expand the image data.

Applicant further submits that the remaining applied art of record (e.g., TAKAHASHI et al., and YOSHIDA et al.) fail to disclose/suggest that which is lacking from OHSawa. Specifically, Applicant submits that these references also fail to disclose or suggest that an inverse DCT is used to obtain expanded image data. Thus, Applicant submits that if one attempted to combine the teachings of the various applied references in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such a combination would perform enlargement by an interpolation process, and not by Applicant's specified (in the claims) inverse orthogonal transformation.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the Examiner is mistaken in his belief that OHSawa uses an inverse orthogonal transformation (inverse DCT) to obtain expanded image data, when OHSawa clearly discloses that expanded image data is obtained using an interpolation process. As noted above, each of Applicant's independent claims specify that expanded image data is obtained using an inverse orthogonal transformation (inverse DCT). As at least this claimed feature differs from the process of interpolation (employed in OHSawa), Applicant submits that the ground for rejecting the pending claims no longer exists. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 are allowable over the applied art of record, and respectfully request the Examiner to indicate such.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

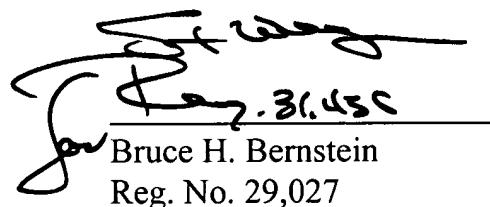
In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending

claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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